







FRIDAY MORNING, DEC. 31, 1880.

Getting Married in Germany.

This time I was bound to make sure,

and with the best information I could

secure, and so far for the civil bureau (Bandra)

and to ascertain what was required.

"Upon what basis do you come?" de-

manded the pompous secretary.

"I am an American citizen, and want to

know how to get married in Germany." I fal-

tered.

He opened the door of the main office

and said: "Enter. Your Germaner wishes to

marry himself," and then he would

take a large and well-filled writing-case to

turn, every occupant of which gazed fixedly at

me without blinking for some minutes. One

of the why man in soiled linen and bright

yellow hair, who had dropped in to announce

the death of his third wife, a troubling young

mother was sharp repelled for letting

the legal third day pass before making

a decent burial for her child.

"A somber-faced man, who had

not even a name, had come with a radiant face, to

announce the birth of my fourth son,

and to be married. Johnnes Conradus

Hermann Degener, a tall, gaunt girl,

and gazing so erect, dignified, and tac-

tastic as a head waiter—to be made man and

woman at a head waiter's time of observation,

and a housekeeper at my turn came.

At length it was shown into the room with half

a dozen chairs at one end, and I wished their

hands off their glasses, and gazed

with open mouth wonder.

"I will get married the very simplest

way," said presenting my passport.

"It will puzzle you."

"It is extremely simple," said the man.

"We must have a certificate of your birth

(Gesetzliche Geburtsurkunde) signed by the burgomaster of

the town in which you were born, and with its

date and place of birth, your certificate

of baptism (christening), which should be

sent to the present pastor or his predecessor

or his son, and also a certificate of

the date of contracting parties, with their

names, as the first step."

The parents of the bridegroom, if they

are still living, are entitled to a copy of the

certificate of baptism, and so forth, and so

on, with all the documents required.

"When we have these here in this office," he

continued, passing kindly that piece of furniture.

"Then either we can publish the banns

by posting a notice of your intention

to marry on a certain day, or if the

banns are not published, then we shall be

sent to you a certificate of marriage,

and then you can get married.

"Or we can publish the banns in the newspaper,

and then you can get married.

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